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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Bukhovo Uranium Deposits/Dropping of Anti-Communist Leaflets/Air Maila Shelter at Kremikovtsi, Bulgaria  
Sources of Uranium/Underground Airfield at Kumaritsa

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Bukhovo Uranium Deposits

2. "There are uranium deposits approximately two km away from the village of Bukhovo in the Stara Planina mountains. Bukhovo is about 22 km from Sofia along the Sofia-Makotsevo-Burgas railway line. There is no railway station at Bukhovo, the nearest one being the station at Yana, about three km from Bukhovo.

3. "The Bukhovo zone, as well as the nearby village of Seslevtsi /not in NIS Gazeteer/ is restricted for outside Bulgarians and foreigners. Inhabitants of Bukhovo and Seslevtsi are not allowed to leave the restricted zone, which is surrounded by both Soviet and Bulgarian troops, without first obtaining a special permit from the local authorities. A similar permit is necessary for visitors coming to the area. There are eight observation posts scattered in and around the prohibited zone. All roads leading to Bukhovo are under a very careful check. There are road blocks on these roads. On the road from the Yana railway station to Bukhovo village, the first road block is near the mill on the left-hand side.

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[redacted]

4. "The uranium deposits are under Soviet control and management. Employees work under the direct supervision of Soviet technicians. [redacted]

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[redacted] work goes on day and night, on a three eight-hour shift basis. There are approximately 2 thousand workers. Only leading members of the personnel - engineers, technicians - are Soviets, while the miners and common laborers are ethnic Bulgarians inhabitants or residents of Bulgaria. Wages are very high compared to those of other State institutions: 1900-1400 leva a month. Permits for Bulgarian workers employed at the uranium deposits are issued by the MVD of Sofia.

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5.

[redacted] Night and day special buses owned by the uranium enterprise take these specialized workers to and from Sofia. [redacted]

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6.

7.

[redacted] the miners threw earth into these vats, after which some other substance was thrown in also. After this washing process, the raw material was put into paper bags (50 kgs into each bag) and transported in PIS-make trucks to the Yane railway station, from where trains departed each day to the Burgas port of embarkation.

Dropping of Anti-Communist Leaflets

8. "On 4, 5 or 6 Jul 53, [redacted] noise of an airplane. All lights around Bulhovo went off. For 20 minutes, the noise of the plane continued. Around midnight, the lights went on again. During the next few days, residents of Sofia spread the rumor that anti-Communist pamphlets had been dropped over Bulhovo and especially [redacted]

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[redacted] the zone had been surrounded by special MVR troops who had picked up all the anti-Communist pamphlets. The pamphlets were in Bulgarian and urged the uranium miners not to work. There were also pamphlets aimed at persuading farmers not to deliver agricultural goods to the state. The pamphlets concluded by telling the population to have faith as their liberation would come sooner than was expected.

Kremikovtsi

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10. "Nobody is permitted to visit the Sveta Giorai (St George) Convent. Nuns were sent away from the convent in late 1951.

Air Raid Shelter

11. "During World War II, the Bulgarian government and the German Wehrmacht constructed an air raid shelter to be used only for government members and high Cabinet officials. This shelter has been enlarged. Four exits have been made, one of which joins the main entrance to a small mountain river which runs through the village. Remodernization of the underground shelter

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was undertaken and completed by July 1952. It was equipped with beds and all sorts of facilities. Bulgarian troops are stationed nearby. Everybody in the village realizes that the shelter will be used for the Communist Cabinet in the case of another war.

Potential Sources of Uranium

12. "Soviet technicians are undertaking research in the mountains surrounding Seslavtsi for the purpose of locating uranium deposits. Similar research is taking place at Lokorsko, Voinegovtsi and Eleshnitsa [Eleschniza, Elesnica], as well as at Zhelyava. Lokorsko, Voinegovtsi and Zhelyava are not in NIS Gazeteer for Bulgaria."

Underground Airfield at Kumaritsa

13. "It is confirmed information that there is an underground airfield at Kumaritsa. Everybody in Sofie knows about it."
14. "Near the Yana railway station is a lacquer-nitrocellulose factory."
15. "There is a rubber plant in the vicinity of Svetovrachene."

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